

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9684

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AR

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON VISIT OF ARGENTINE SECRETARY OF
AGRICULTURE TO UNITED YOATES

1. LOCAL PRESS CARRIED ANSA REPORT DATELINED WASHINGTON
ON RECENT VISIT OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE CADENAS MADA-
RIAGA TO THE US AND STRESSED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRE-
TARY BERGLAND. HIGHLIGHTS OF REPORT ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

2. MEETING BETWEEN CADENAS MADARIAGA AND SECRETARY BERGLAND
WAS DESCRIBED AS CORDIAL AND WAS AN INDICATION THAT DIFFER-
ENCES ON HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT AFFECTING COOPERATION AT OTHER
LEVELS. CADENAS MADARIAGA IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE
PRINCIPAL HUMAN RIGHTS IS NUTRITION.

3. CADENAS MADARIAGA REPORTDLY LAMENTED THAT THE 1976
HARVEST HAD BEEN SOLD, IN SOME INSTANCES, AT PRICES BELOW
THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL BUT ATTRIBUTED THESE SALES TO
STRUCTURAL DEFICIENCIES.

4. DIPLOMATIC WASHINGTON CIRCLES INDICATED THAT THE PRIN-
CIPAL RESULTS OF THE MEETING WERE "SENSATIONAL". THESE
WERE (A) AGREEMENT BY US TO CONSULT ARGENTINA WHEN DETERMI-
NING WHEAT POLICY REPORT STATES THAT (WASHINGTON ALREADY
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MAINTAINS DISCUSSIONS WITH CANADA AND IT INTENDS TO EXPAND
THESE CONSULTATIONS TO ARGENTINA AND AUSTRALIA). (COMMENT:
THERE WAS NO MENTION OF COMMODITY AGREEMENT.)
(B) US SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA'S PLAN FOR TECHNICAL COOPE-
RATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING A REVISION
OF SANITATION POLICY. CADENAS MADARIAGA REPORTEDLY TOLD
PRESS THAT SECRETARY BERGLAND HAD PRAISED THE IDEA OF RE-

ESTABLISHING THE FAMOUS "HOUSSAY COMMISSION" TO STUDY SANITATION PROBLEMS (HOUSSAY COMMISSION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE SIXTIES AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT OF ARGENTINE PRESIDENT FRONDIZI TO THE US). ARGENTINA WOULD APPOINT NOBEL PRIZE WINNER LUIS LELOIR TO THE COMMISSION.

5. CADENAS MADARIAGA REPORTEDLY GAVE SECRETARY BERGLAND GOA VIEWS IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL SANITATION AND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH INCLUDED CONCERN FOR:

(A) THE STRONG SWINGS IN PRICES, SUCH AS THOSE RECENTLY OBSERVED IN WHEAT, RICE AND SUGAR.

(B) THE INTERNAL POLICIES OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE EC COUNTRIES, WHICH PROMOTE INTERNAL PRODUCTION ON THE BASIS OF STRONG DIRECT AND INDIRECT SUBSIDIES.

(C) THE NON-TARIFF BARRIERS IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE, SUCH AS MEASURES TO PROTECT HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH BUT WHICH COMETIMES ARE SIMPLY TRADE RESTRICTIONS WHICH CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED SCIENTIFICALLY OR TECHNICALLY.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COMMENT ON ALLEGED OUTCOME OF CADENAS MADARIAGA VISIT.
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